Atty. Dkt. No. 99PS014/KE

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 11. (Canceled)

12.   (New) A method of transmitting programming signals to a passenger seat of an aircraft, the passenger seat including a seat controller unit and a passenger control unit, the passenger control unit being configured to allow a passenger to change between a plurality of program channels, wherein the program channels are configured to provide a plurality of programming signals, the plurality of program channels being delivered on one of a plurality of RF channels, comprising:

     retrieving a system configuration of the passenger entertainment system, wherein the system configuration is retrievable upon activating the passenger entertainment system;

     identifying digital media stored in a digital media file server of the passenger entertainment system, such that a programming database is generated, wherein the programming database is configured to assign multiple programming signals to the stored digital media;

     mapping at least one of the plurality of RF channels to the programming signals assigned to the stored digital media, such that the at least one RF channel is configured to transmit multiple programming signals on a single RF channel based on the hardware configuration of the passenger entertainment system, wherein the RF channels are mapped to the programming signals independent of an equally-distributive relationship between the RF channels and the programming signals;

     storing the program channel assignment information in the seat controller unit; and

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displaying on the passenger control unit the program channel corresponding to the programming signal, such that the passenger control unit enables a user to toggle between program channels, wherein the RF channels are configured to be mapped independent of an equally-distributive relationship with the programming signals.

13.   (New) The method according to claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

generating display signals from the programming signals; and

displaying the display signals corresponding to the program selection.

14.   (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein the program selection is changed using up/down channel selection buttons on the passenger control unit and wherein a program channel that is next in sequence to the program channel corresponding to a current program selection is displayed on the passenger control unit in response to an up channel selection and a program channel that is previous in sequence to the program channel corresponding to the current program selection is displayed on the passenger control unit in response to a down channel selection.

15.   (New) The method according to claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

allocating a first plurality of RF channels to carry programming signals from a first device generating NTSC video streams based on the system configuration; and

allocating a second plurality of RF channels to carry programming signals from a second device generating MPEG video streams based on the system configuration.

16.   (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein each of the first plurality of RF channels carries a single NTSC video stream and each of the second plurality of RF channels carries multiple MPEG video streams.

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17.   (New) The method according to claim 16, further comprising the step of allocating one of the second plurality of RF channels to carry multiple MPEG video streams corresponding to one program channel.

18.   (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the one program channel corresponds to near video-on-demand program channel.

19.   (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein the multiple MPEG video streams corresponding to the near video-on-demand program channel correspond to a single program selection and are transmitted over said one RF channel at different start times.

20.   (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the one program channel corresponds to a video-on-demand program channel.

21.   (New) The method according to claim 20, wherein the multiple MPEG video streams corresponding to the video-on-demand program channel correspond to different program selections and are transmitted over said one RF channel at a start time commanded by the passenger.

22.   (New) A method of identifying a program channel selection in a passenger entertainment system, the passenger entertainment system having a seat controller unit and a plurality of RF channels for providing a plurality of program channels on each of the RF channels, the steps of the method comprising:

        dynamically identifying a hardware configuration of the passenger entertainment system, wherein the hardware configuration is assessable upon initiating the passenger entertainment system;

        identifying digital media stored in a digital media file server of the passenger entertainment system;

assigning the program channels to the digital media stored on the digital media file server;

assigning one of the plurality of RF channels to the program channels assigned to the digital media stored on the digital media file server, such that each RF channel is configured to transmit multiple program channels based on the hardware configuration of the passenger entertainment system, wherein the RF channels are assigned to the program channels independent of a proportionate distributive relationship between the RF channels and the program channels;

storing the program channel assignment information in a memory;

providing the program channel assignment information to the seat controller unit; and

displaying the program channel on a passenger control unit, such that the passenger control unit enables a user to toggle between program channels, wherein the program channels are configured to be mapped to correspond to an assigned RF channel having multiple video streams independent of the proportionate distributive relationship.

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